

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3287

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

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USMISSION GENEVA ALSO FOR UNIDO

AMEMBASSY ROME ALSO FOR FODAG

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND OWEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, EFIN

SUBJECT: UNGA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) SESSION

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SUSPENDED OVER PROCEDURAL IMPASSE

REF: USUN NEW YORK 3509

1. SUMMARY. AFTER IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE
IMPASSE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(REFTEL NOTAL) THE COMMITTEE DECIDED ON SEPTEMBER 8 TO

SUSPEND ITS SUBSTANTIVE WORK AND REFER THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM TO THE UNGA.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 8, CHAIRMAN JAZAIRY FORMALLY RECONVENED THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED IN MAY. HE REVIEWED THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS (REFTEL). SINCE THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE HAD NOT BEEN CLARIFIED, JAZAIRY PROPOSED THAT THE SESSION BE SUSPENDED AND THAT A "SIMPLE, NON-CONTROVERSIAL" REPORT BE DRAFTED BY THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE UPCOMING 33RD UNGA. THIS REPORT WOULD CONTAIN A FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM. IT WOULD NOT REFLECT ANY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN MAY OR INCLUDE ANY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE MAY DISCUSSION. WHEN NO OBJECTION WAS MADE TO THIS PROPOSAL, THE CHAIRMAN THEN CALLED FOR STATEMENTS FROM DELEGATIONS.

3. FONMIN PATTERSON OF JAMAICA (WHO HAD BEEN IN NEW YORK SINCE WEDNESDAY) SPOKE FIRST FOR JAMAICA (THE ONLY STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF A SINGLE LDC) AND THEN FOR THE GROUP OF 77. FOR JAMAICA, HE RECALLED THE INITIAL ENTHUSIASM ABOUT CREATION OF COW ("A BODY UNLIKE ANY OTHER") AND REGRETTED THAT THE VERY REAL DIFFERENCES OVER ITS RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE HAD ARISEN ONCE AGAIN (DESPITE "MAJOR CON-

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CESSIONS MADE BY THE G-77 IN THE FINAL HOURS" OF WEDNESDAY'S DISCUSSIONS). HE TERMED THE SUSPENSION A "REAL AND MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISIS" AND SAID THAT THE INTRANSIGENCE OF "ONE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY" WOULD BE NOTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THAT THE "POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WOULD HAVE TO BE BORNE BY THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY."

4. SPEAKING FOR THE G-77, PATTERSON RECOUNTED THE HISTORY OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, CLIMAXING WITH CREATION OF COW BY 32ND UNGA AS BODY AT LAST WILLING TO REACH AGREEMENTS. ACCORDING TO HIS INTERPRETATION, G-77 WORKED TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF COW'S ROLE EACH TIME THEY AROSE: DURING UNGA, AT FEBRUARY ORGANIZATION SESSION, "IN FINAL HOURS" OF MAY SESSION, AND AT INFORMAL MEETING OF COW DURING JULY ECOSOC SESSION IN GENEVA. HE SAID IT WAS NOT G-77 WHICH RAISED ISSUE OF COW'S FUNCTIONS, BUT G-77 TRIED THIS WEEK TO ESTABLISH ONCE AND FOR ALL COW'S RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. HE SAID G-77 HAD REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT COW SHOULD PREEMPT WORK OF OTHER BODIES. UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE FINAL FORMULATION TO ONE DELEGATION REGRETTED BY G-77, BUT TO HAVE AVOIDED A

MISUNDERSTANDING ALSO AVOIDS RISK OF ANOTHER BREAKDOWN.
PATTERSON ENDED HIS STATEMENT WITH DECLARATION OF G-77 PER-
SISTENCE TO ESTABLISH JUST ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS AND OF
HIS CONFIDENCE THAT G-77 WILL PREVAIL.

5. DAS HORMATS, SPEAKING FOR THE U.S., EXPRESSED PROFOUND
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE IMPASSE. HE SAID WE HAD COME TO
THE MEETING WITH NEW AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS; THAT WE FULLY
SUPPORTED THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE; THAT WE HAD AGREED TO
THE WORD AND CONCEPT OF NEGOTIATION IN THE COMMITTEE; AND

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THAT A "HIGH-LEVEL, CONCEPT-ORIENTED DIALOGUE BY SENIOR POLICY OFFICIALS COULD LEAD TO REAL PROGRESS AND BREAKTHROUGHS." HORMATS REGRETTED THAT THE YOUNG FORMULA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD NEVER BEEN TRIED. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEEPLY HELD VIEWS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS DIFFER FROM OURS, BUT THAT THE USG BELIEVES THAT A WILLINGNESS TO BE OPENLY FRANK ABOUT OUR DISAGREEMENTS WILL MEAN THAT THE AGREEMENTS WE DO REACH WILL BE MORE SIGNIFICANT AND ENDURING. HE CONCLUDED BY RECONFIRMING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. WHILE WE MAY DIFFER FROM TIME TO TIME ON HOW TO ATTAIN THEM, WE SHARE FUNDAMENTAL COMMON GOALS AND WILL SEEK WITH RENEWED DETERMINATION OUR QUEST FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS, JUST, AND EQUITABLE WORLD.

7. OTHER STATEMENTS READ BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FRG (ON BEHALF OF EC), JAPAN, GDR, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, SWEDEN, PRC, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, CANADA, SPAIN, FINLAND, AND UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. ALL EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE SUSPENSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. NONE EXCEPT CHINA BLAMED THE U.S., AND SOME EXPRESSED, INDIRECTLY, SUPPORT FOR U.S. VIEWS. CHINESE HEAPED BLAME ON BOTH SUPERPOWERS--THE USSR FOR STRESSING COW'S ROLE AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION IN 1980 TO THE EXCLUSION OF G-77 OBJECTIVES.

7. IN FINAL REMARKS, CHAIRMAN JAZAIRY STRESSED THAT DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF COW'S PROCEDURES ARE PARALLELED BY DIFFERENCES IN SUBSTANCE. NOTING COW NOT ONLY A FORUM IN NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, HE LAMENTED WHAT HE FELT WAS RECENT LOSS OF MOMENTUM IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. YOUNG

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